

**NOTICE!**

**ALL DRAWINGS  
ARE LOCATED  
AT THE END OF  
THE DOCUMENT**

EMF

PRELIMINARY REPORT  
ON  
5JF217 A STONE CIRCLE SITE ON ROCK CREEK,  
NORTHWESTERN JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO

Calvin H Jennings

491-7241

491-5447

70-15200. OR - 003

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*Jennings, C. H.*  
*archaeology*  
*site survey*

May 1976

Laboratory of Public Archaeology  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523

Prepared for Rockwell International  
Under Purchase Document No. 54422D

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ADMIN RECD

A-DU05-000671

1/a

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

On May 12, 1976, the author and Ms Anne McNamara, representing the Laboratory of Public Archaeology (LOPA), visited two localities under jurisdiction of the Energy Resource and Development Administration (ERDA) in the vicinity of the Rocky Flats Plant in northwestern Jefferson County. We were accompanied by Ms. Kathleen Anderson, Ms April Volk, and Mr. Ralph Hawes, representing the plant operator, Rockwell International. The purpose of the visit was to assess the potential of a previously unrecorded archaeological site, 5JF217, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. We also examined an additional site, 5JF79, at the request of our escorts in the hope that we might be able to expand on the information provided by Richard Stuckey and John Slay in their report filed with Ms. Volk on January 26, 1975.

## SITE DESCRIPTION

5JF217 consists of at least seven stone circles located on the southern rim of the highest terrace which forms the surface of Rocky Flats. In addition, there is an area of several hundred square-meters covered by cobble-free areas separated from one another by mounds of cobbles which have a variety of shapes, all generally curvilinear. There are no trash deposits, flake concentrations, or even isolated flakes or tool fragments on the site. The only definite signs of occupation are the circular cobble alignments noted above.

There are four alignments which are quite distinct and are discernable to even the most casual observer. These four circles have been disturbed by a truck trail which clips them along their southern extremes. Also, a rectangular pit, about 100 cm. x 50 cm. in extent and about 15-20 cm. deep, has been excavated in the center of the third alignment from the west. There are no other signs of disturbance.

These four prominent circles appear to have been rebuilt and probably from some of the same stones used in the construction of at least three other similar alignments. These three incomplete alignments are slightly north of the four complete specimens. In addition our cursory examination indicates that there may have been other similar circular alignments further to the north but they have been obscured, probably as the result of robbing convenient cobbles from the older alignments for the construction of later circles.

The alignments consist of a single row of cobbles roughly 25 cm. in their greatest dimension. There is no single stone resting on top of another to indicate that the alignments are the remnants of dry-laid masonry walls. The cobbles have been collected from the alluvium on which the terrace has formed.

A detailed map was not produced at the time of the initial investigation due to a lack of time and the absence of proper equipment. Such a map is necessary for proper documentation of the site's potential for the provision of important information to history. It is our intention to prepare such a map later in May.

The view from the site is quite good in all directions. This fact results from the elevated location of the site. The view has desirable elements, of course, but the location is also exposed to the high winds which rake the Boulder-Rocky Flats area in late winter and spring. Such elevated locales are common for stone or tipi ring sites similar to 5JF217.

Other pertinent factual information on the site is included in the attached site record form. Please refer to it for elevation, access to water, legal description of location, etc.

## PRELIMINARY EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the presently available data it is reasonable to assume that 5JF217 has potential for providing important information on the regional prehistory. The fact that the site has apparently been reoccupied several times and the number of alignments associated with each reoccupation seems to be of about the same magnitude indicates that 5JF217 may contain information which would be helpful in determining the size of task groups in the society represented. It is also possible that information will be available indicating the time of year the site was used and perhaps for what purpose. All of this information will contribute to improvement of our understanding of the prehistoric occupation of the Denver Basin.

The foregoing factors would support a decision to recommend the site for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. However, as we intend to prepare a detailed map of the locality in the immediate future, it is appropriate to defer on the question until we have more quantitative and graphic information on the site and its features. We should be able to complete the field work and prepare the final report in less than thirty days.

We do recommend that no activity be permitted in the area of 5JF217 until the site can be properly studied and a thoroughly documented evaluation of its significance made. If the estimated time necessary for completion of the study is not consistent with plans for the site vicinity, please inform me and I will make every effort to meet whatever requirements exist.

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF COLORADO INVENTORY SHEET

St. Vrain R. - Boulder Creek

Site No 5JF217, Jefferson County, Colorado State Coal Creek, Rock Creek Drainage

1 Prior No/Name Rocky Flats 1 Used By C.S.U.

2 Elevation 5985' 3 Louisville 7½ USGS Quad 4 Other Map

5 **LOCATION** Site is on top of highest terrace on Rocky Flats about 300 meters west of confluence of Rock Creek with a nameless drainage Area is about 1.5 miles

north of Rocky Flats (cont.) NE¼SE¼NW¼ of SEC 03 TOWNSHIP 2s, RANGE 70w  
 U.T.M. Grid 481,780m E. 4,417,500m N

6 Owner ERDA 7 Address Rocky Flats Plant Site

8 Tenant None 9 Prior Owner(s) Spicer

10 Informant \_\_\_\_\_ 11 Address \_\_\_\_\_

12 **NEAREST WATER** Rocky Creek permanent XX season

13 Distance to 12 250 meters 14 Elevation of 12 5860'

15 **LOCALE VEGETATION** Short grasses, yucca, catae. Shrubs along creek.

16 **SITE TYPE** Open Architectural 17 Cultural Affiliation (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

18 **Description** Several (7+) clearly defined stone-outlined circles located near the southern rim of the terrace overlooking a seep. Four of the circles have been crossed by the truck trail leading to the site. These four apparently are superimposed

(cont) Est 40m E-W x 20m. N-S 20 **Faces to (cardinal direction)** All

21 **Depth & Character of Deposits** Deep alluvial material - coarse gravels. No cultural deposits evident

22 **Material Observed or Reported** 7+ stone circles.

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23 **Material Collected** NONE

24 **Condition** Slightly disturbed by truck trail. Pothole in 3rd circle from westernmost of the features

25 **RECOMMENDATIONS** Site should be protected until evaluative testing can be carried out to determine National Register eligibility.

26 **Photograph Nos.** \_\_\_\_\_ 27 **Recorded By** C.H. Jennings, A.P. McNamara

28 **Date** 5/12/76

SEND TO — Office of the State Archaeologist  
5-A Ketchum Hall  
University of Colorado  
Boulder, Colorado 80302

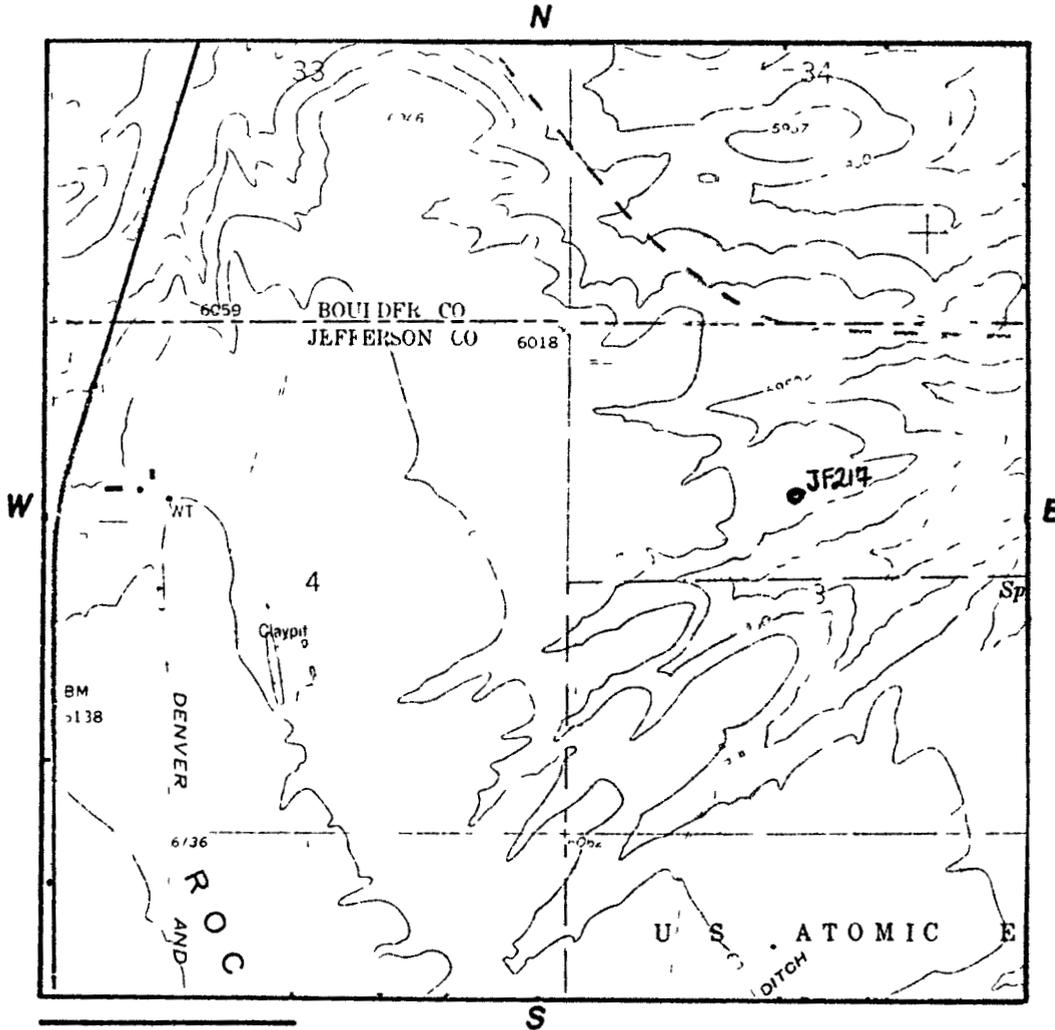
SEE REVERSE  
& CONTINUATION SHEET  
Nos \_\_\_\_\_

Site No-5JF217, Jefferson County, Colorado State, St. Vrain R. Drainage, NE¼SE¼NW¼ SEC 03 T 2s, R. 70w, Page 1 of 4

Site No 5JF217

NE  $\frac{1}{2}$  SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 03, Township 2s, Range 70w

Indicate the chief topographic features, such as streams and elevations. Also indicate houses and roads. Enclose the site area with dotted line. If possible, show extent and kinds of vegetation and sources of other natural resources which may have influenced site selection. Attach a Xerox of portion of USGS quadrangle map showing site location, if possible.



SCALE 1 block = (if diagram does not equal a section)

- Directions to site Drive 1.5 miles east on Colorado Highway 128 from junction with Colorado 93. Turn right onto truck trail and pass through locked gate in steel post, 4-strand barbed wire fence. Follow truck trail to first fork and take left alternative through remains of old gate. Follow truck trail across ravine and past remains of former ranch site. Turn east (left) at ranch site and follow faint trail about 0.6 miles east along ridge north of Rock Creek. Stay to south rim of terrace and site will be encountered in trail.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF COLORADO  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Site No 5JF217

ITEM No COMMENT

5 plant site and 1/3 mile east of cement plant on Colorado 93, south of Boulder

18 on the other circles and represent the most recent occupation of the site.  
The stones used for the circles are the large cobbles native to the gravels  
making up the terrace

We found no evidence of trash mounds or other features in the im-  
mediate vicinity of the circles. About 50-100 meters northwest of the  
circles are numerous cobble-free areas which are associated with cobble  
mounds. The cause of this arrangement could not be determined from surface  
indications

26 No photos were taken on 5/12/76.

Site No 5JF217

1st

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Recorded by C.H. Jennings, A.P. McNamara  
Date 5/12/76

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SEE REVERSE

7

DETAILED MAP OF —

Site No 5JF217

Feature No General Site Area

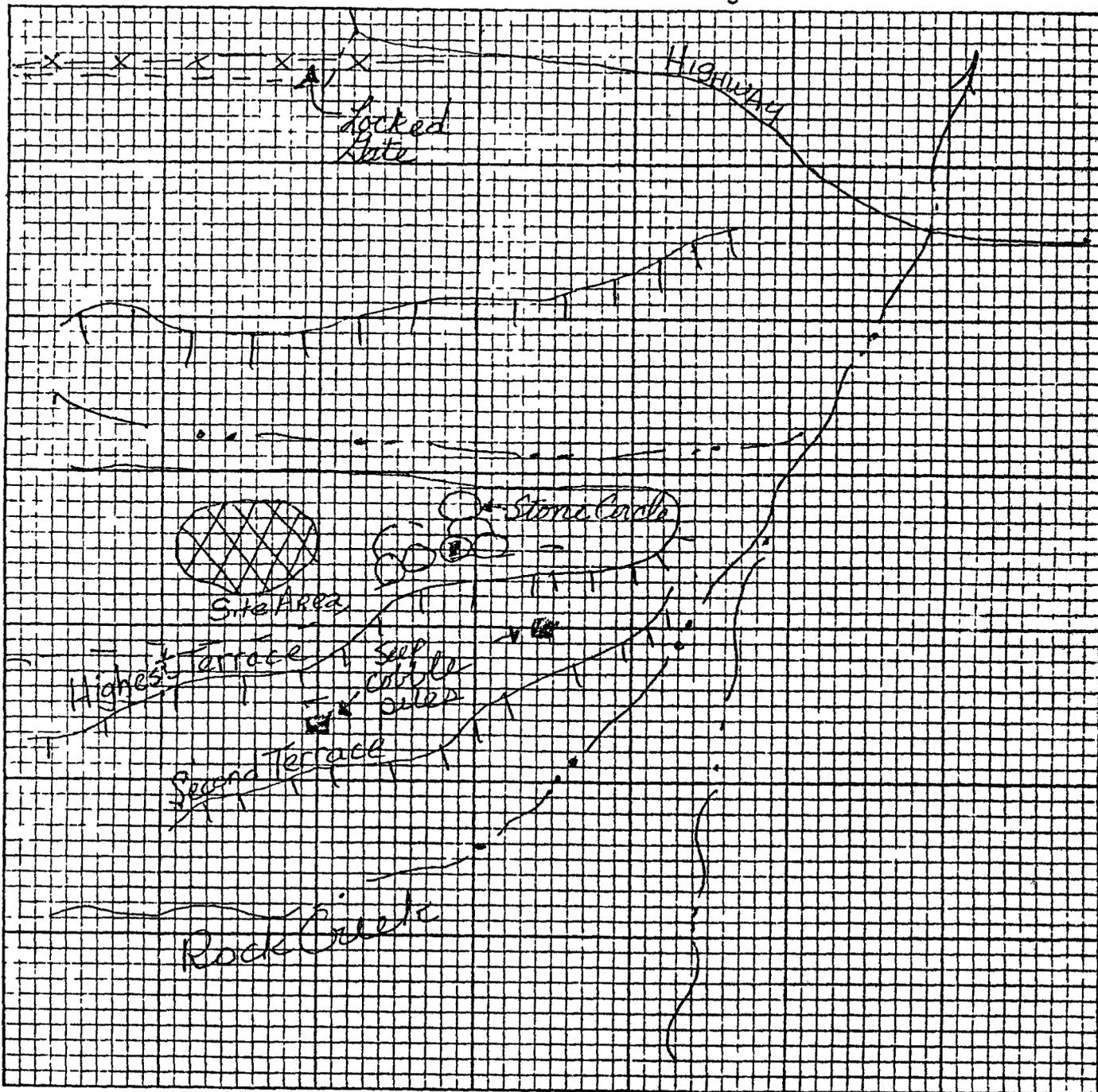
Provenience NE 1/4 SE 1/4 NW 1/4, Section 03, T2s, R70w

Recorded by C H Jennings, A P McNamara Date 5/12/76

Indicate map scale, the cardinal direction NORTH, orientation of vertical profiles, and directions and distances to 2 readily identifiable nearby permanent landmarks

SCALE NONE

DIRECTION W N E  
S



Remarks

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SEE REVERSE

788

Site No 5JF217 CONTINUATION SHEET Page 4 of 4

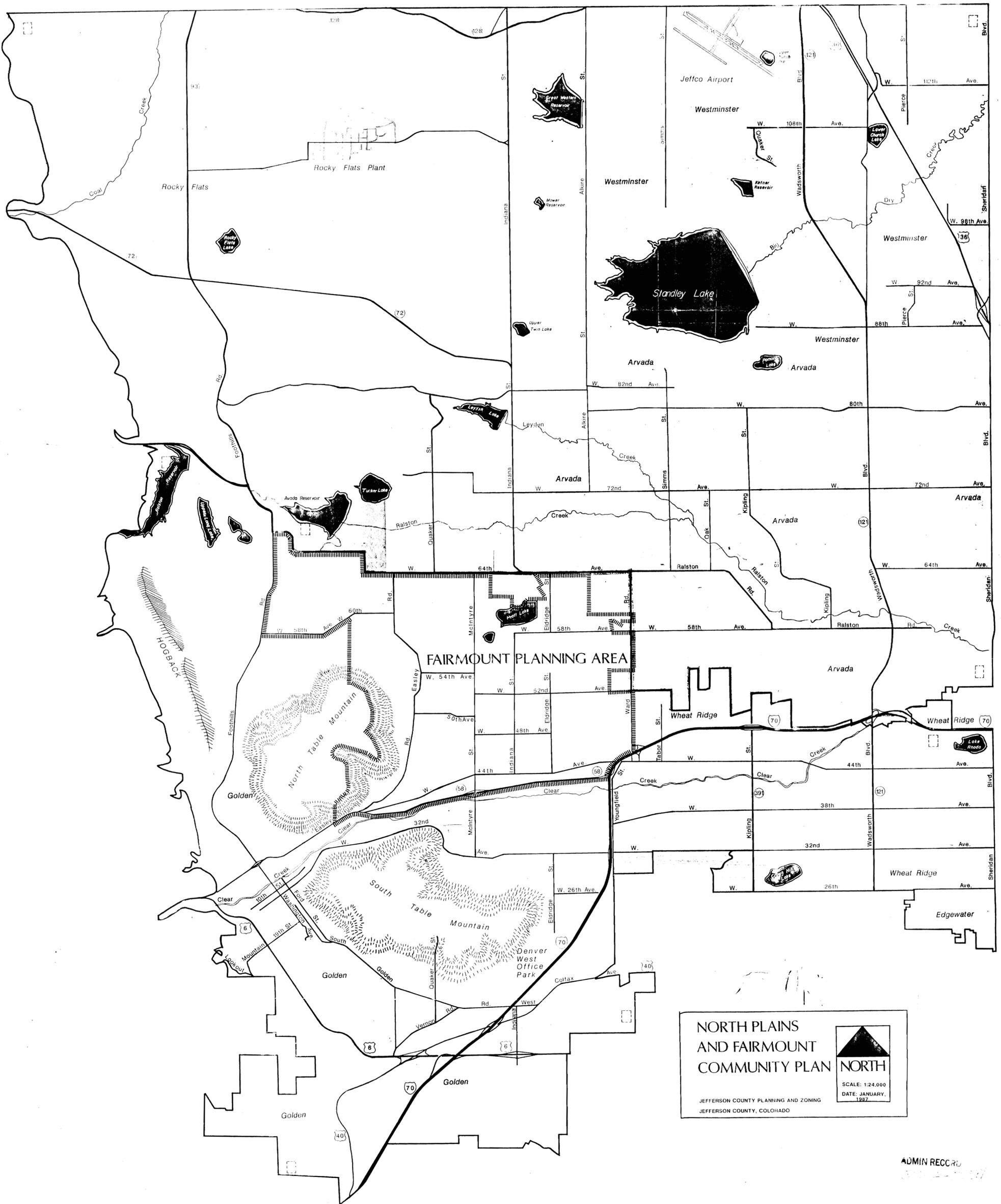
**THIS TARGET SHEET  
REPRESENTS A FOLD-OUT  
MAP**

**Plate 1:**

**A Stone Circle Site on  
Rock Creek: Description  
Map for 5JF217**

**May 1976**

**DOE/RFFO CERCLA Administrative Record: OU05-A-000671**



**NORTH PLAINS  
AND FAIRMOUNT  
COMMUNITY PLAN**

SCALE: 1:24,000  
DATE: JANUARY,  
1987



**NORTH**

JEFFERSON COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING  
JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO

ADMIN RECORD